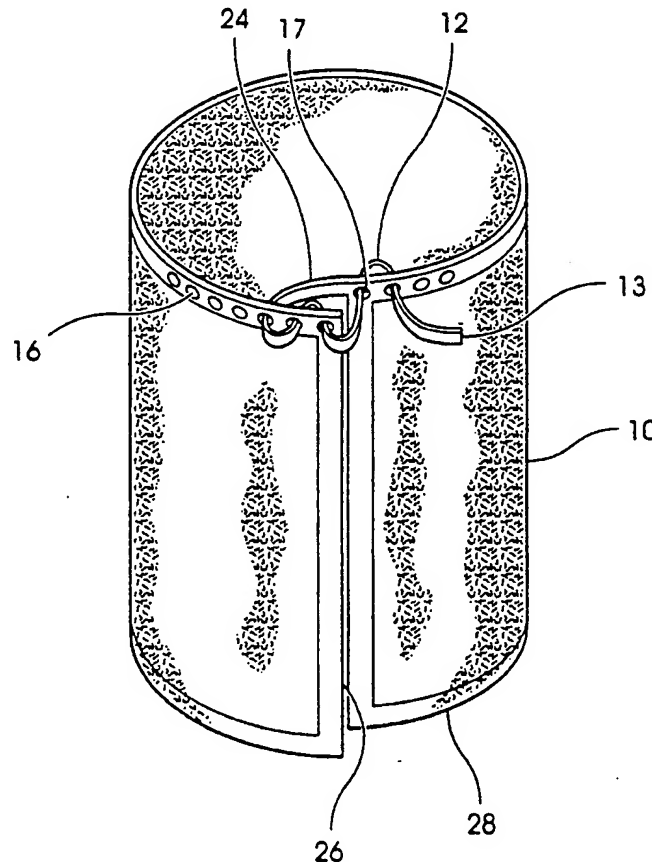




US005322918A

United States Patent [19]
Kirby[11] **Patent Number:** **5,322,918**
[45] **Date of Patent:** **Jun. 21, 1994**[54] **DISPOSABLE PAPER BATH TOWEL WITH INTEGRAL APERTURES AND TIE**[76] **Inventor:** Shirley J. Kirby, R.R. 1, Box 148C,
Flora, Ind. 46929[21] **Appl. No.:** 900,159[22] **Filed:** Jun. 17, 1992[51] **Int. Cl.⁵** B32B 23/02; B32B 7/14;
B32B 27/10; A41D 13/04[52] **U.S. Cl.** 428/192; 428/136;
428/137; 428/198; 428/201; 428/224; 428/241;
428/288; 428/290; 428/507; 225/23; 225/67;
2/48; 2/50; 2/51; 2/52[58] **Field of Search** 428/137, 192, 136, 137,
428/198, 201, 224, 246, 288, 290, 507; 2/48-52;
225/23, 67[56] **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**4,003,509 1/1977 Camarero 225/23
4,075,382 2/1978 Chapman et al. 428/192
5,085,914 2/1992 Perdelwitz 428/137*Primary Examiner*—Patrick J. Ryan*Assistant Examiner*—Richard C. Weisberger
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Woodard, Emhardt,
Naughton, Moriarty & McNett[57] **ABSTRACT**

A disposable body towel includes a tie and apertures for retaining the towel around a bather. The disposable towel comprises a flexible substantially planar non-woven laminated sheet having top, bottom and side edges and includes a plurality of fibrous water absorbent cellulose plies. The sheet includes an outer ply and an inner ply, wherein the outer ply is water absorbent. The sheet possesses sufficient structural strength when wet to resist degradation in the presence of liquids and is sized to substantially cover a body. The inner and outer plies are bonded together by biodegradable resin at the side edges, thereby reinforcing said side edges for providing additional resistance to tearing. The sheet includes an adjustable tie attached to said top edge and apertures along said top edge for securing the towel about the body as said towel is positioned to substantially cover the body.

12 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets

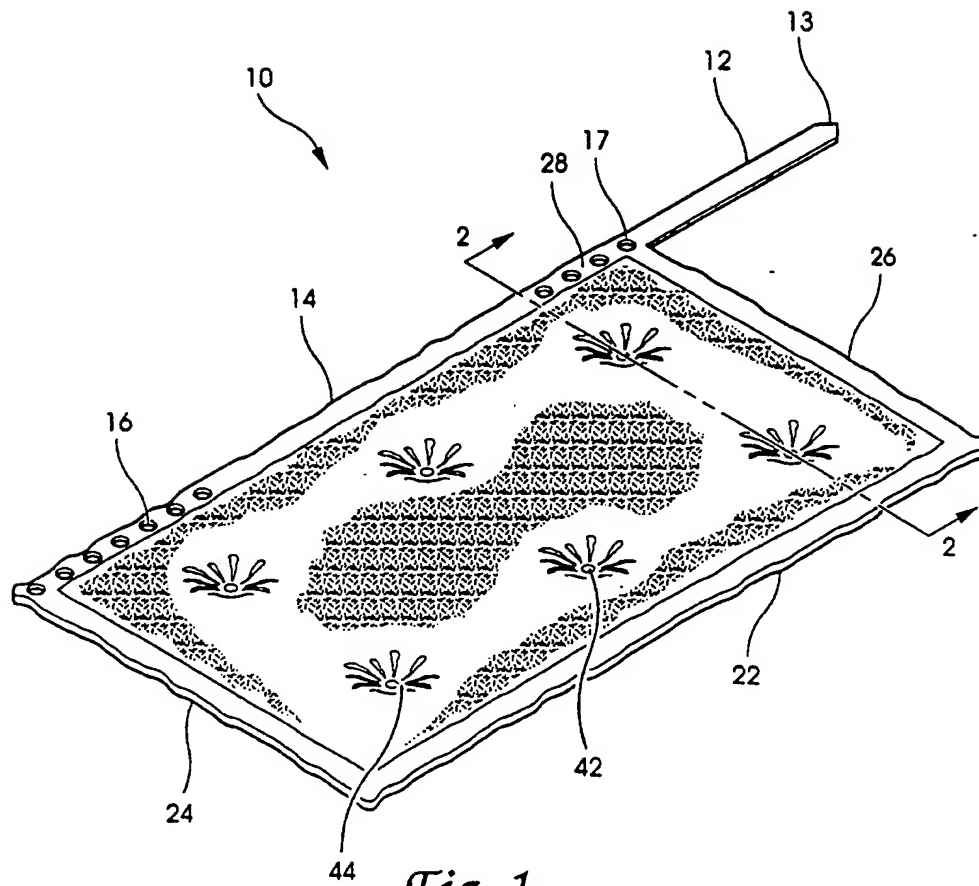


Fig. 1

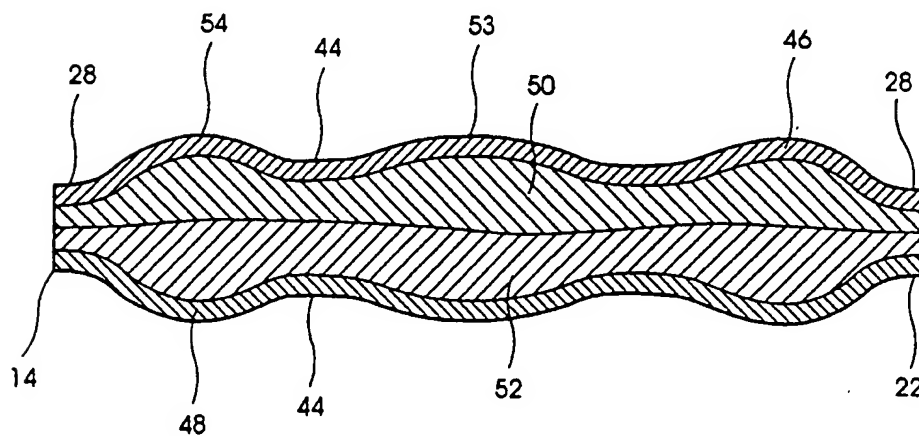
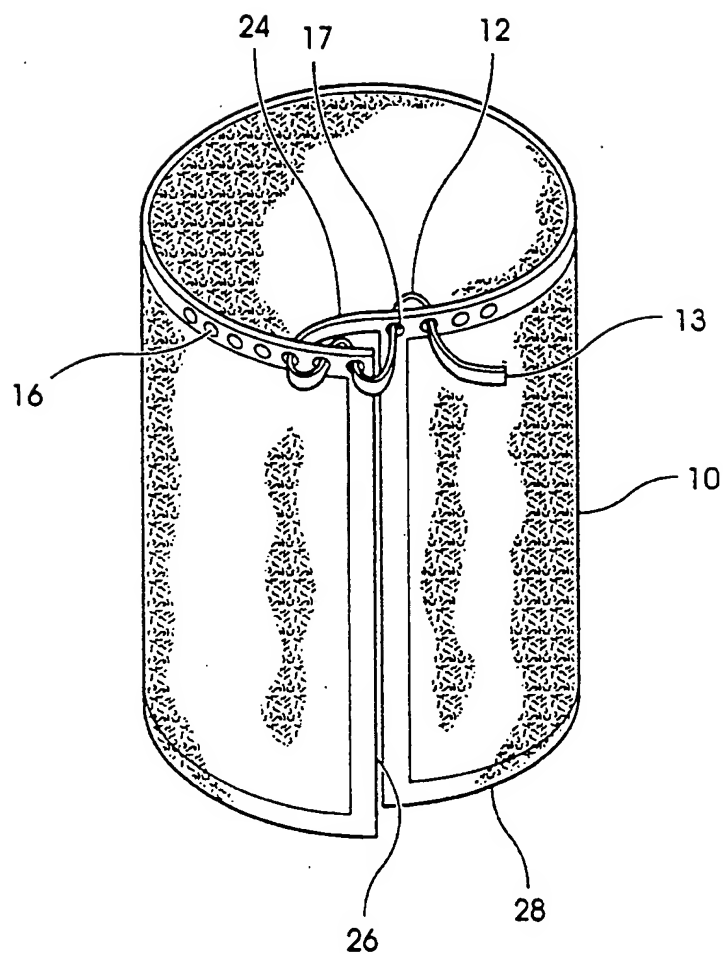


Fig. 2

*Fig. 3*

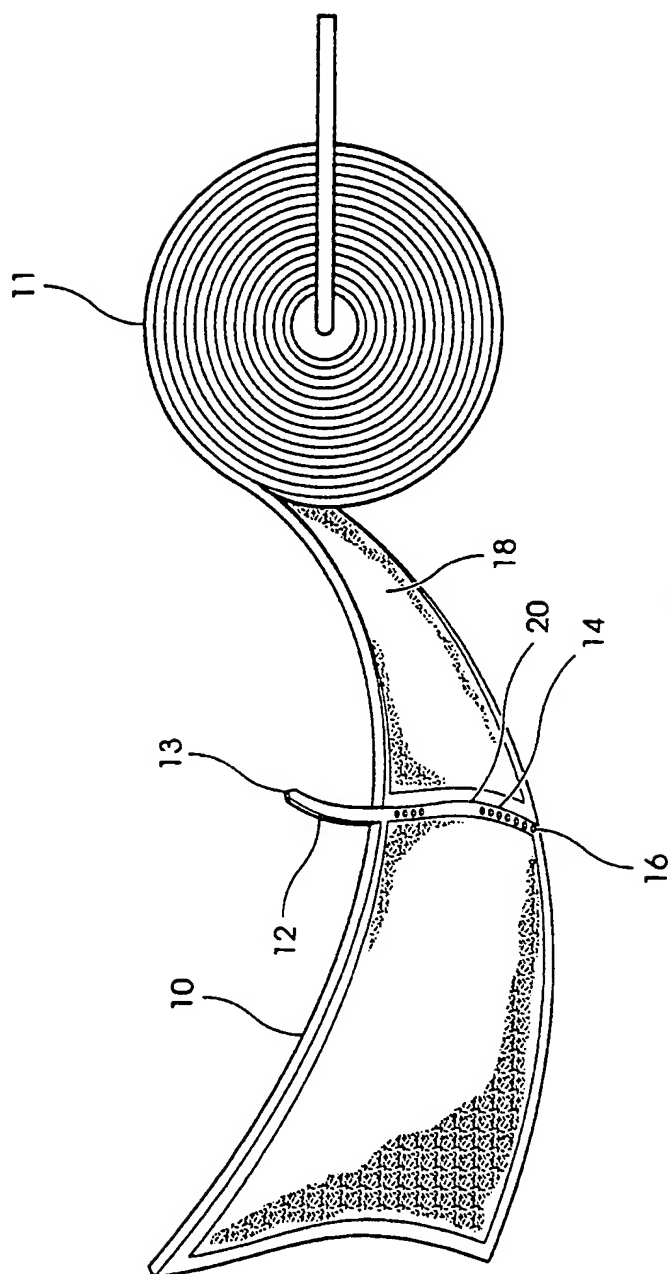
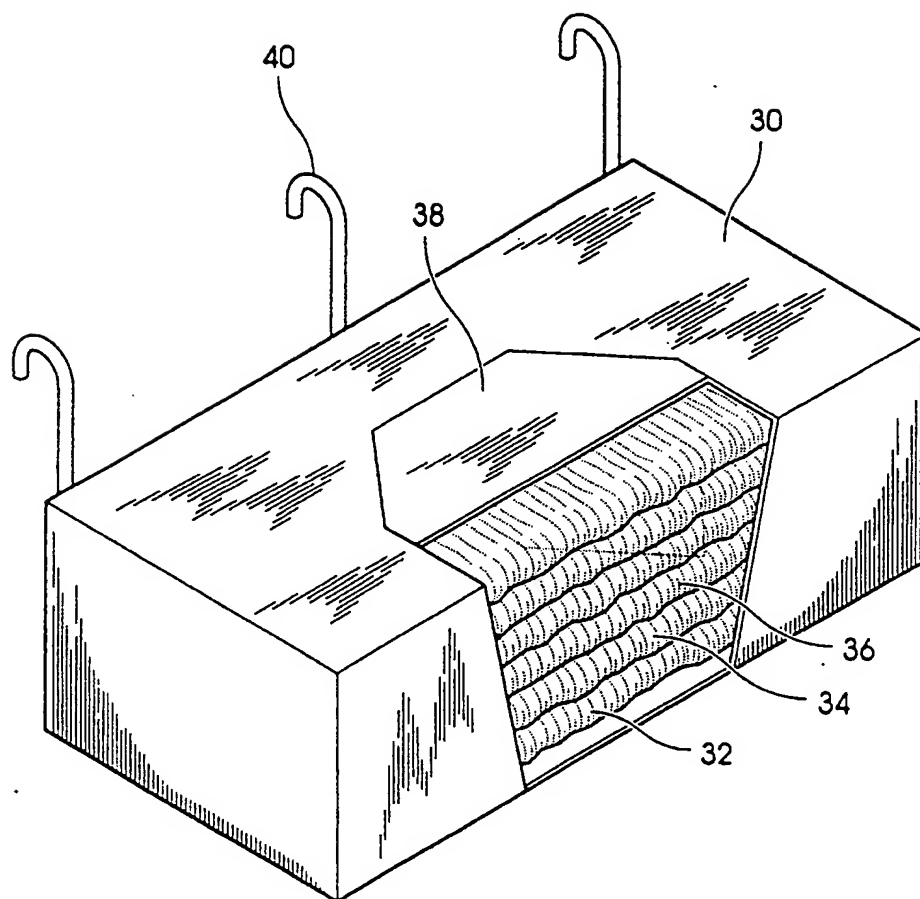


Fig. 4

*Fig. 5*

DISPOSABLE PAPER BATH TOWEL WITH INTEGRAL APERTURES AND TIE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to the field of bath towels and more particularly to a disposable bath towel having a tie and a plurality of apertures for securing the towel around a person.

Woven cloth is commonly used for bath towels and beach towels. Frequently there are occasions where the use of a cloth towel which must be washed and dried is either impractical or inconvenient. Also the laundering of cloth towels can be costly for beauty parlors, hospitals, nursing homes, hotels, etc. A disposable bath towel would save water, detergent and labor. However, even with all of the advantages of disposable towels and disadvantages of cloth towels, the prior art disposable towels have been unable to supplant cloth towels for the bath and beach. The following patents are provided for background information.

U.S. Pat. No. 4,075,382 to Chapman, et al relates to a disposable non-woven surgical towel and method of making it. The surgical towel includes an outer tissue layer adhered to a medium density thermoplastic, long fibered, non-woven material and includes a center ply constituting a low density melt blown long fibered non-woven material. The use of the thermoplastic material significantly reduces the biodegradability of the surgical towel. The surgical towel also lacks means for securing the towel about a person.

U.S. Pat. No. 4,003,509 to Camarero discloses a disposable bath towel and dispensing device. The patent discloses a series of absorbent tear-off elongated sheets of paper imprinted to have opposite ends with simulated borders and having felted absorbent fibers extending from the imprinted surface along the length of the respective sheets with multi-color zones resembling quality textile cloth toweling. A series of sheets is shown rolled and mounted for cranking forwardly beneath a spring biased roller to a position beneath a tear blade such that the disposable simulated bath towel sheets may be cranked to a tear-off position one at a time and torn away for use. The Camarero towel lacks a reinforcing tear resistant border, a folded stack dispenser, treatment for enhanced wet strength, quilting and lacks means for securing the towel around a bather.

The present invention is designed provide a convenient alternative to cloth towels and thereby avoid the labor and expense of washing cloth towels.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Briefly describing one aspect of the present invention, a disposable bath towel comprises a flexible substantially planar non-woven laminated sheet having top edges, bottom edges, side edges and a border. The sheet includes a plurality of fibrous water absorbent cellulose plies. In one embodiment, the sheet includes an outer ply and an inner ply, wherein the outer plies are formed from soft water absorbent material. The inner plies need not be as soft as the outer plies and may add additional strength or additional water absorbency. The inner and outer plies are bonded together by resin along the border, thereby reinforcing the side edges for providing additional resistance to tearing. The sheet has sufficient structural strength when wet to resist tearing in the

presence of liquids and being sized to substantially cover a bather's body.

The sheet further includes an adjustable tie attached to the top edge and apertures for securing the towel about a person as the towel is positioned to substantially cover the body.

One object of the present invention is to provide a disposable bath towel which may be used to dry off a bather and which has sufficient strength to resist tearing when wet. A further object is to provide a disposable towel which may be used for the beach or at swimming pools.

Another object is to provide a disposable towel for use in hospitals or nursing homes thereby allowing the used linens to be conveniently disposed of. A further object of the present invention is to provide an economical home guest towel for use when additional demands are placed on home linen supplies.

Another object is to provide a disposable towel which may be secured around the body of a person. A further object is to provide a disposable towel suitable for use in beauty parlors.

Other objects, and certain benefits, of the present invention will become apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art from the following written description and accompanying figures.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is an elevational view of the disposable towel of one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view of the disposable towel taken along lines 2—2 on FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 shows the disposable towel with the tie passing through apertures for securing the disposable towel about a person's waist.

FIG. 4 shows a sheet of disposable towel extending from a roll of disposable towels in one means for dispensing the towels.

FIG. 5 is an illustration of stacked towels in a box in another means for dispensing the towels.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

For the purposes of promoting an understanding of the principles of the invention, reference will now be made to the embodiments illustrated in the drawings and specific language will be used to describe the same. It will nevertheless be understood that no limitation of the scope of the invention is thereby intended, such alterations and further modifications in the illustrated device, and such further applications of the principles of the invention as illustrated therein being contemplated as would normally occur to one skilled in the art to which the invention relates.

Referring to FIG. 1, an elevational view of towel 10 is illustrated. Tie 12 is attached to top edge 14 and extends outward from side 26. A border 28 extends around the perimeter of the towel. The border 28 can be formed by applying a resin, which is preferably biodegradable, between the plies and then applying pressure to adhere the plies together. The resulting border 28 is a lamination of plies and resin that reinforces the side edges and apertures and which provides additional resistance to tearing. The border width may range from about one inch wide to about three inches wide, but is preferably about two inches. A preferred resin is an acrylic latex, polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinylpyrrolidone,

a protein adhesive, a methylcellulose derivative or combinations thereof.

A plurality of apertures 16 are positioned at the border 28 along top edge 14 and extend inward from side edge 24 at one or two inch intervals from one another. The diameter of the apertures is preferably about one half the width of the border. The apertures 16 are at spaced intervals from tie 12 and allow the towel to be secured to persons of differing sizes. A plurality of apertures 17 are also positioned in the border 28 along top edge 14 adjacent to side edge 26. This arrangement allows the towel 10 to be wrapped around the person with side edges 24 and 26 overlapping to cover the person and with the tie extending through the apertures. Locating the apertures in the border 28 provides increased resistance to tearing due to the increased thickness of the border. Generally, the apertures are punched after the border is formed. It is preferred that at least one half inch of border surround each aperture to provide sufficient strength. The border 28 along the top edge 14 may be wider than along the other edges to provide further reinforcement to the apertures. The apertures may also include reinforcing rings to provide additional resistance to tearing.

The tie 12 may be a strand or string that is adhered to the top edge 14 by resin. Alternatively, the tie 12 may be a separate piece adhered to the sheet 10 along the full length of top edge 14, thereby reinforcing the border 28. In the preferred embodiment, the tie 12 is integrally formed as an extension of the border 28 along the top edge 14 beyond the side edge 26. An especially preferred tie is a two inch wide extension of the border which must be folded or curled as it is drawn through the apertures. This configuration in which the tie is wider than the aperture increases friction thereby further securing the tie within the aperture. It is preferred that the tie 12 extend from side edge 26 at least six to eight inches. Additionally, The tie end 13 may be tapered to facilitate placement of the end 13 through the apertures.

An especially preferred towel is 24 inches by 36 inches by one eighth inch thick and includes two inch borders around the edges, a two inch wide tie six inches long and seventeen one inch diameter apertures spaced at two inch intervals along the long side of the towel. About one inch is a preferred diameter the apertures. A preferred spacing for the apertures is about one to two inches apart.

Referring to FIG. 2, a cross section of towel 10 is shown. Towel 10 comprises outer ply 46, outer ply 48, inner ply 50 and inner ply 52. The border 28 adjacent the top edge 14 and bottom edge 22 of the plies is shown having less thickness than the central portion 53 of the towel. Quilting points 42 also have a smaller cross-sectional thickness than the central portion 53. The sheet can be quilted by placing resin at quilting points 42 and then applying pressure to the plies. The resin applied between the plies to form the quilting points 42 also adheres the plies together in a resin ply laminate similar to the border 28. The quilting point 42 forms a quilting depression 44 having a cross sectional dimension which is less than the surrounding thickness of towel. The quilting increases the strength of the towel though additional bonding of the plies together and provides additional surface area for absorbing liquids. The quilting also provides a pleasing appearance which is similar to that of a soft quilted fabric and may form an attractive pattern. In areas where the resin is not supplied in suffi-

cient amounts to bind the plies together, for example loft area 54, the towel fluffs out to a greater thickness which provides a cushioned softness and greater surface area.

The body towel is preferably comprised of a non-woven fibrous sheet having a plurality of plies. It is preferred that the outer ply be formed from a soft paper material, such as tear resistant tissue or other soft paper material. The inner plies are not required to be as soft because they do not contact the skin, but they must be absorbent. The inner plies may be selected for resistance to tearing and for their absorbency. It is also preferred that the plies of the sheet have a basis weight from about 10 to about 60 grams per square meter. The thicknesses and number of the plies may be varied to provide differing amounts of absorptive capacity and flexibility characteristics of the towel. It is contemplated that the thickness of the towel may be from 1/16 inch to 3/16 inch thick. A towel 1/8 inch thick is especially preferred.

An important characteristic of the towel is sufficient wet strength to enable the towel to dry a bather and to be secured about the bather without risk of tearing or loss of structural integrity when the towel is wet. It is contemplated that the towel be treated to improve its resistance to tearing when wet by applying a wet strength resin to the plies. The same type of resin which is applied to the border 28 and the quilting points 42 may also be applied to enhance the wet strength of the towel. Preferred wet strength resins include acrylic latex, polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinylpyrrolidone, protein adhesives, methylcellulose derivatives or combinations thereof.

It is also contemplated that resin be applied to the outer plies in a grid pattern to increase the tear resistance of the towel. Alternatively, reinforcing fibers may be incorporated into the plies for added strength. It is preferred that the resin be biodegradable to provide a biodegradable towel for environmental considerations.

The disposable bath towel may be imprinted with different colors and different patterns as decoration. An attractive scent may be applied to the bath towel. The bath towel may also be imprinted with logos for advertising promotions. It is also contemplated that the disposable towel be embossed with decorative designs to compliment the colored pattern for enhanced consumer appeal. The number and spacing of the quilting points may also be varied. The towel quilting may also be arranged in a distinctive pattern for product identity and aesthetic purposes.

FIG. 3 illustrates the towel 10 shown in FIG. 1 wrapped around a person and secured thereto with the tie passing through the apertures. The user inserts the end 13 of tie 12 through an aperture 16 spaced from side edge 26 a distance corresponding approximately to the person's waist size. Then, the person inserts the tie 12 back through aperture 17 near side edge 26 to secure the tie end 13 and the towel about their body. The tie can pass through many apertures to minimize the risk that the towel will slip off the user. In the preferred embodiment, apertures 16 extend inward from side edge 24 and apertures 17 extend inward from side edge 26 along top edge 14. Alternatively, apertures can be spaced along the entire length of the border at the top 14 of the towel.

Referring to FIG. 4, one method of dispensing the disposable bath towel 10 is shown in which a perforated roll 11 of disposable bath towels is provided. Towel 10 includes a tie 12 attached to the top edge 14. Tie 12 includes a tie end 13 which extends from the towel 10.

The towel 10 also includes apertures 16 and 17 along the top edge through which the tie 12 may pass for securing the towel, as the towel is positioned to substantially cover the woman.

The towel 10 may be separated from adjacent towel 18 on the roll 11 by applying a moderate twisting and pulling movement to towel 10 permitting the perforated section 20 between towel 10 and 18 to tear, thereby separating the adjacent towels. Perforated section 20 is positioned between the top edge 14 and bottom edge 22 of adjacent towels.

Referring to FIG. 5, an alternative towel dispenser 30 is shown which contains a stack 32 of precut folded disposable bath towels 34 is shown. It is preferred that the dispenser hold from about 12 to about 36 towels. Towel 34 is identical to towel 10 except that towel 34 is precut, folded and supplied in stacks rather than being provided on a roll with a perforated section separating adjacent towels. The stack 32 of folded towels 34 provides a convenient source of the disposable towels.

Towel dispenser 30 may be a cardboard box having a suitable opening for passage of the folded towels therethrough. Alternatively the dispenser 30 may be a reusable decorative dispenser formed from plastic or other suitable materials. Dispenser 30 includes a top flap 38 and may include one or more hooks 40 to allow the dispenser to fit over and be retained by a conventional cloth towel holder (not shown). It is also contemplated that the dispenser may include a decorative colorful pattern to compliment its surroundings.

While the invention has been illustrated and described in detail in the drawings and foregoing description, the same is to be considered as illustrative and not restrictive in character, it being understood that only the preferred embodiment has been shown and described and that all changes and modifications that come within the spirit of the invention are desired to be protected.

What is claimed is:

1. A disposable body towel, comprising;
a flexible substantially planar sheet having a top edge, an opposite bottom edge, a first side edge and an opposite second side edge, said sheet including a number of water absorbent plies; and
said sheet further including an elongated tie connected to said top edge and extending outward from said first side edge, and several apertures defined in said sheet along said top edge, wherein said apertures are adapted for passage of said tie therethrough for securing said towel around the body of a user,
wherein a first plurality of said apertures are positioned adjacent said second side edge along said top edge, and a second number of said apertures is positioned adjacent said first side edge along said top edge.

2. The disposable towel of claim 1 wherein said sheet is supplied on a roll and is removably attached at one of its edges to an adjacent sheet.

3. The disposable towel of claim 1 wherein said sheet is folded and supplied in separate precut sheets.

4. The disposable towel of claim 1 wherein said plurality of plies are bonded by an acrylic latex resin.

5. The disposable towel of claim 1, wherein said first plurality of apertures are positioned about two (2) to six (6) inches from said second side edge at intervals of between about one (1) to two (2) inches.

6. The disposable towel of claim 1, wherein said second number of apertures includes a plurality of apertures extending from said first side edge toward said second side edge at about one (1) to two (2) inch intervals.

7. A disposable body towel, comprising;

a flexible substantially planar sheet having a top edge, an opposite bottom edge, a first side edge and an opposite second side edge and a border adjacent said edges, said sheet including a plurality of water absorbent plies, said plurality of plies being bonded together at said border, thereby reinforcing said edges to provide resistance to tearing of said sheet; and

said sheet further including an elongated tie connected to said top edge and extending outward from said first side edge, and several apertures defined in said sheet along said top edge, wherein said apertures are adapted for passage of said tie therethrough for securing said towel around the body of a user,

wherein said tie is integral with said border at said top edge.

8. The disposable towel of claim 4 wherein said resin is biodegradable.

9. The disposable towel of claim 1 wherein said plies are bonded together to form a quilted pattern on said sheet.

10. The disposable towel of claim 1 wherein each of said plies has a basis weight from about 10 to about 60 grams per square meter.

11. The disposable towel of claim 10 wherein each of said plies is treated with a wet strength resin.

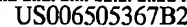
12. A disposable body towel, comprising;

a flexible substantially planar sheet having a top edge, an opposite bottom edge, a first side edge and an opposite second side edge, said sheet including a number of water absorbent plies; and

said sheet further including an elongated tie connected to said top edge and extending outward from said first side edge, and several apertures defined in said sheet along said top edge, wherein said apertures are adapted for passage of said tie therethrough for securing said towel around the body of a user,

wherein said tie has a width greater than the diameter of said apertures.

* * * * *



(10) **Patent No.:** US 6,505,367 B2
(45) **Date of Patent:** Jan. 14, 2003

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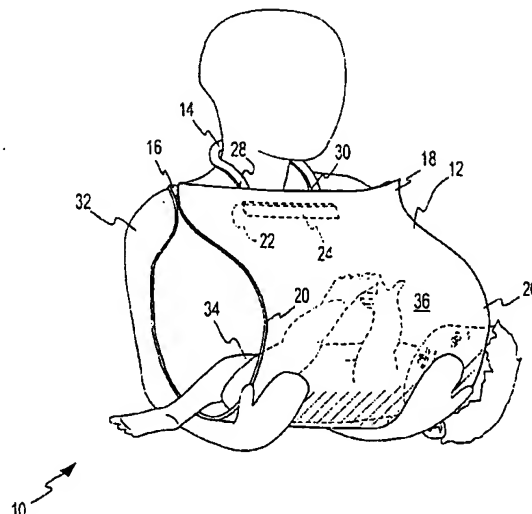
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Primary Examiner—Alexander Grosz
(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Stearns Weaver Miller
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- (57) **ABSTRACT**

- A bath towel device and method for picking up, holding and drying infants and small children, wherein the bath towel includes a strap for hanging the towel from an adults neck, a lower end that wraps around the infant/child, a surface area that covers a substantial portion of an adults torso and lap and means for holding the lower end near the upper end when wrapped around an infant or small child.

8 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets



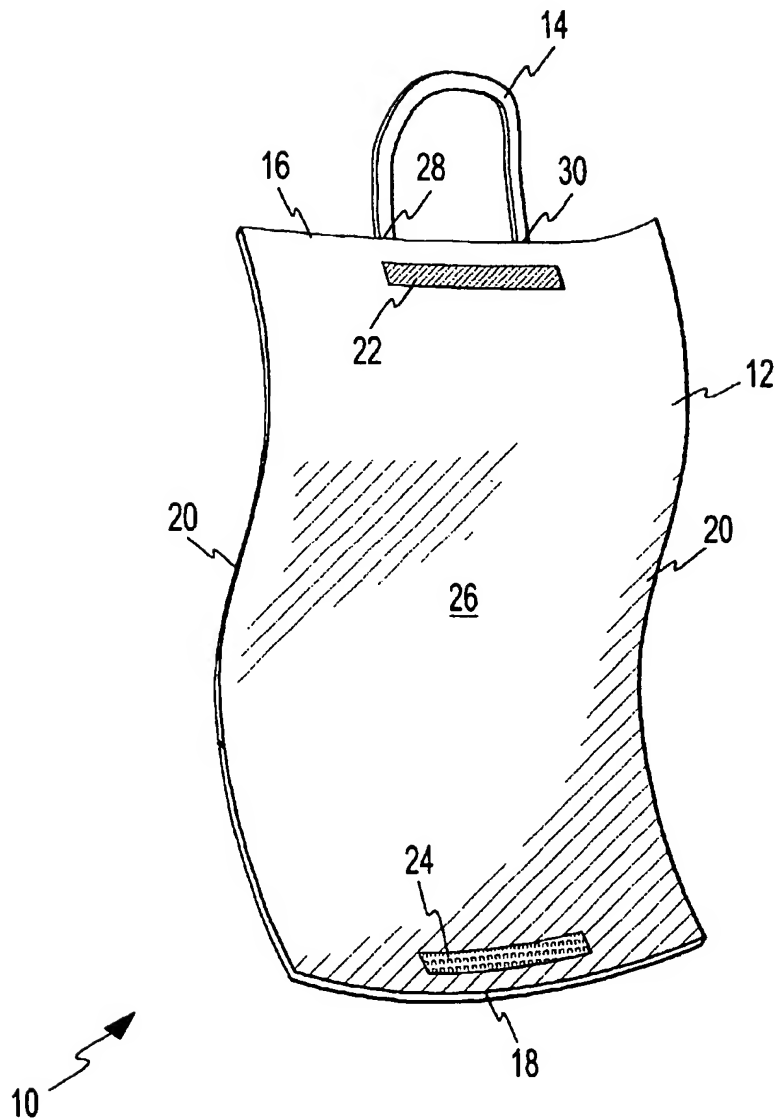


FIG. 1

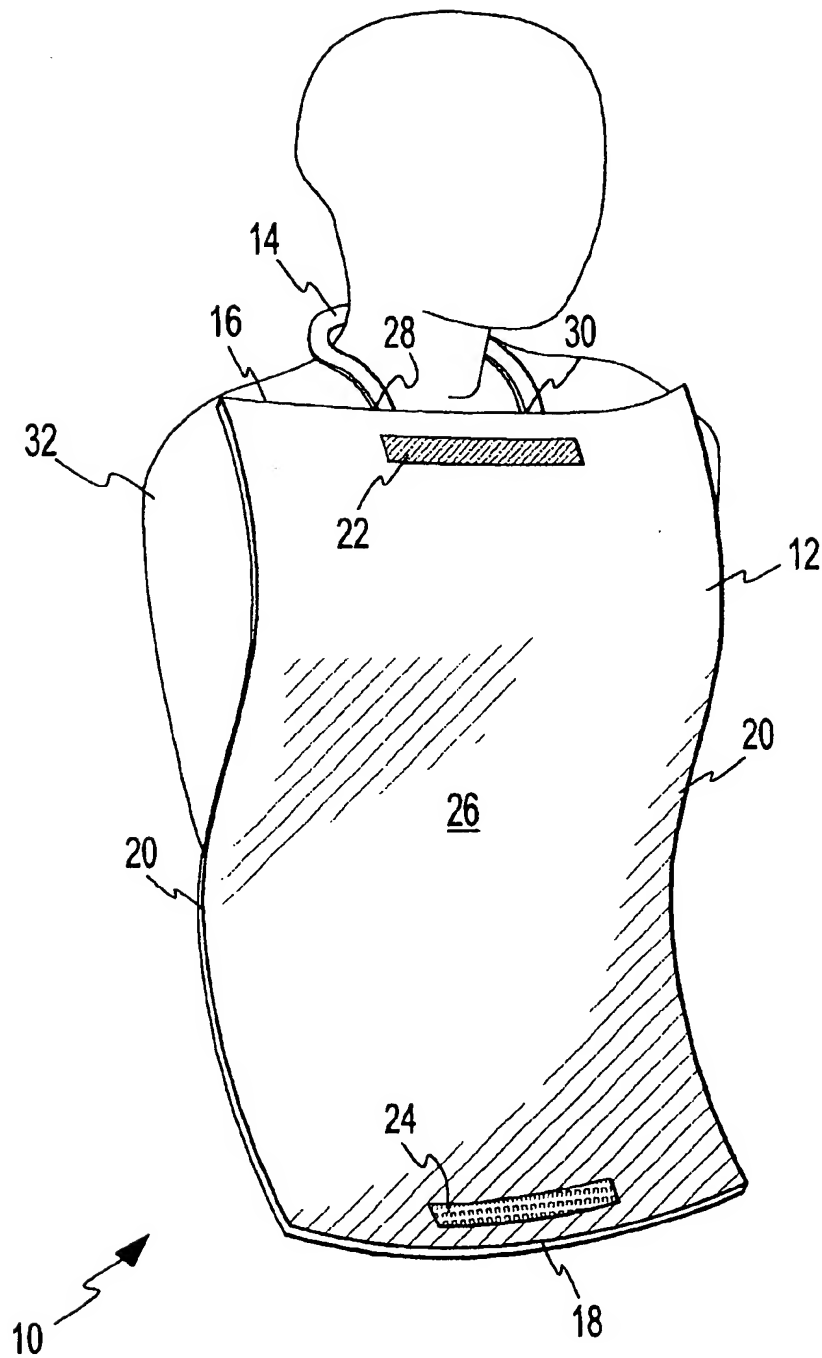


FIG. 2

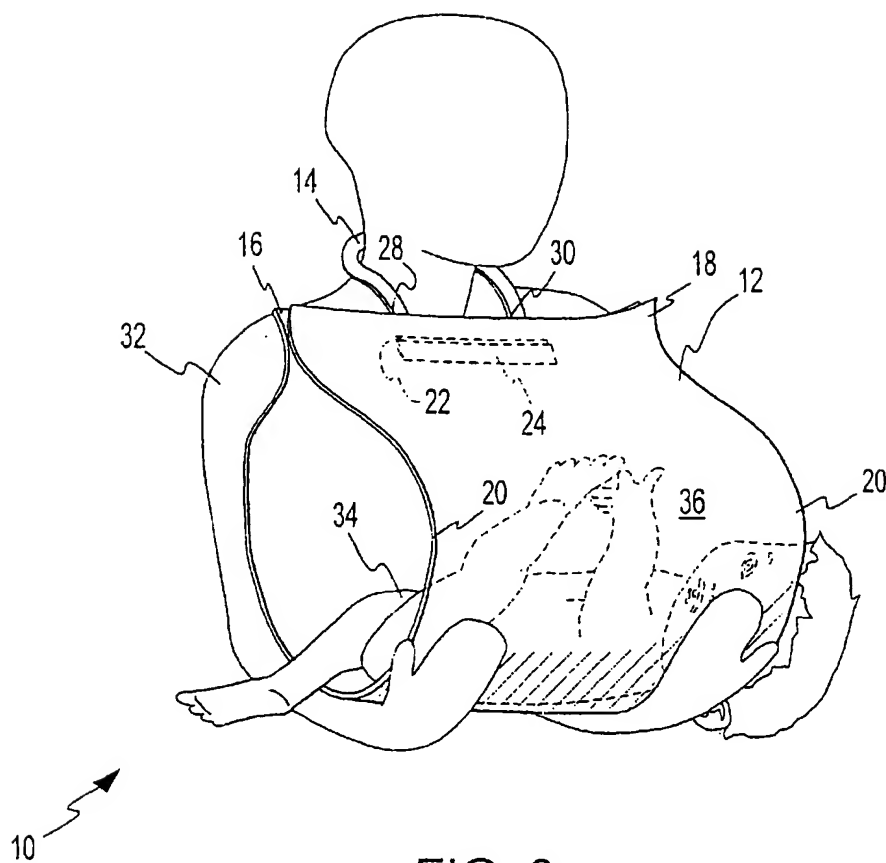


FIG. 3

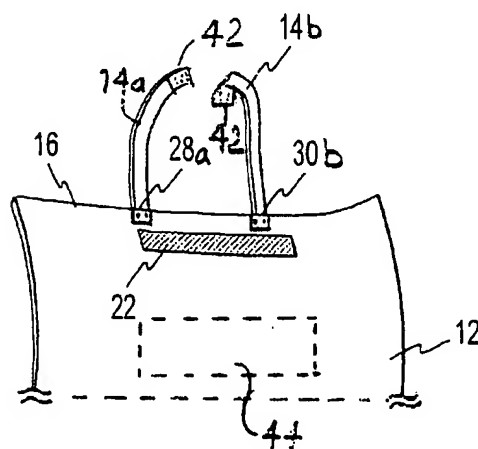


FIG. 4

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BATH TOWEL DEVICE AND METHOD FOR INFANTS**CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application claims the benefit of provisional application Serial No. 60/187,858 filed Mar. 8, 2000.

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT
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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**1. Field of the Invention**

The present invention relates generally to bathing accessories, and more specifically to a modified towel that may be worn by an adult while bathing an infant or small child in order to prevent being soaked with bath water during bathing and when removing the infant/child from the bath receptacle, facilitate the safe removal of the child from the bath and allow for the immediate wiping and drying of the infant/child with said towel.

2. Description of the Background Art

Washing or bathing an infant or a small child can be a tedious and wet chore. It typically requires an adult or guardian lowering the infant/child into a bathing receptacle, such as a bath or wash tub or pan, that is filled with a quantity of bath water. The adult must exercise extreme care in the performance of such activity so that the infant or small child is adequately cleaned while being restrained from ingesting water, soap or shampoo and from falling or dropping out of the bathing receptacle. Once bathing is finished, the adult delicately and quickly removes the infant from the bath receptacle taking care to wrap or envelop the infant with a drying towel while trying to minimize the chance of becoming wet or soaked themselves with water splashing up from the bath receptacle and dripping from the infant. As a drying towel is seldom within easy reach, the wet infant must be held with one or both arms while retrieving the drying towel, which exposes the infant to risk of injury and the ambient air. When the towel is positioned within easy reach, it is frequently repositioned by the activity and commotion of the bath, especially if the infant is agitated. As a result, the adult often gets wet or soaked with bath water during removal of the infant/child from the bath and the infant/child is exposed to the ambient air while dripping wet increasing the risk of injury and sickness.

In light of the aforementioned risk and disadvantages present in conventional methods of bathing infants and small children, there exist the need for a modified bath towel that can be more easily accessible to the adult and more convenient to the user. A towel that could be worn by an adult while bathing and drying the infant/child would meet this need as the infant could be picked up with, held against, dried with and wrapped in the towel in an uninterrupted, continuous motion, thereby preventing the adult from

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becoming soaked with water and unnecessarily exposing the wet infant to the ambient air and risk of dropping and other injury.

Numerous designs for modified towel designs have been provided in the prior art. Even though these designs may be suitable for the specific individual purposes to which they address, they are not suitable for solving the problems addressed by the instant invention as said designs are intended primarily for use as garments. These designs are exemplified by U.S. Pat. No. 5,075,901, Athletic Shirt-Towel Assembly, issued to Vollrath on Dec. 31, 1991; U.S. Pat. No. 5,697,102, Combination Towel and Robe, issued to Benjamin on Dec. 16, 1997; and U.S. Pat. No. 5,855,021, Towel Garment, issued to Somerville on Jan. 5, 1999.

As such, it may be, appreciated that there is a continuing need for a new and improved towel modified to be worn and used by the care-giver to safely pick up, hold and dry the infant/child immediately after removal from the bath. In these respects, the present version of the invention substantially departs from the conventional concepts and designs of the prior art, and in so doing provides an apparatus that substantially fulfills this need. Additionally, the prior patents and commercial techniques do not suggest the present inventive combination of component elements arranged and configured as disclosed herein.

The present invention achieves its intended purposes, objects, and advantages through a new, useful and unobvious combination of method steps and component elements, with the use of a minimum number of functioning parts, at a reasonable cost to manufacture, and by employing only readily available materials.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Based on the foregoing, it is a primary object of the instant invention to provide a modified towel that may be worn by and hung from an adult while bathing, picking up and drying infants and small children.

It is also an object of the instant invention to provide a towel that facilitates the safe removal of an infant or small child from a bath tub.

It is another object of the instant invention to provide a towel that allows for the immediate wiping and drying of said infant or small child as they are removed from the bath.

It is an additional object of the instant invention to provide a towel that keeps the adult from being soaked with bath water when the infant or small child is bathed and removed from the bath receptacle.

It is a further object of the instant invention to provide a low-cost, easy-to-manufacture, and easy-to-market after-bath towel for infants.

It is another object of the instant invention is to provide an easy-to-use and versatile after-bath towel for infants.

It is an additional object of the instant invention is to provide an after-bath towel for infants that is comprised of a fabric material modified with a neck strap attached to a shorter edge thereon and a pair of fasteners secured to one side of said towel portion.

It is also an object of the instant invention to provide an after-bath towel for infants that prevents said infant/child from becoming unnecessarily exposed to injury and the ambient air while wet.

In light of these and other objects, the instant invention provides a bath towel that may be worn and used by an adult during and after bathing an infant or small child. The preferred embodiment of the instant invention comprises a

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towel having a releasable, fixed or elastic neck strap attached to or proximal the edge of the towel, a lower end that may be pulled up and over the infant/child and a surface area having a size adapted for substantially covering the lap and torso area of an adult. The towel of the instant invention may further comprise wrap fasteners affixed to the towel for securing a selected edge, such as the lower end, to another section of the towel proximal the strap edge. The wrap fasteners may comprise a narrow, elongate fastener attached proximate to the shorter edge or upper/strap end of the towel and a second narrow, elongate fastener secured proximate to an opposing, cooperating edge on said first side of the towel. The fasteners may comprise VELCRO®, snaps, clips, and the like.

In the preferred embodiment, the towel is substantially rectangular. The towel may also be substantially oval, triangular and/or rounded along selected edges. The towel is preferably manufactured from cotton, terry cloth, hemp or other material having similar water absorption characteristics. The surface area of the towel preferably covers at least the torso area of an adult and provides for adequately wrapping, enveloping or covering an infant. The neck strap is preferably releasable and secured at two points to the upper edge of the towel or on one side of the towel near the upper end. The strap may comprise two cooperating straps each having a fixed end permanently secured to the towel and a free end whereby the free ends include fasteners that releasably connect. The fasteners may comprise VELCRO®, snaps, clips, and the like.

Before bathing an infant, an adult or guardian dons the towel by placing their head through the strap or connecting the strap ends around the neck such that it hangs from the neck with the towel portion covering at least the torso area of the adult. If the towel employs wrap fasteners, the side of the towel with the fasteners attached thereon should be exposed or facing outward. Once the infant/child has been bathed, the adult picks up the infant/child with the towel and places it against the chest in a seamless motion, ensuring that the wet infant makes contact with the majority of the towel. Once so positioned, the adult can raise the lower end of the towel until the infant is adequately covered or wrapped by the towel. To keep the child wrapped and the towel secured, the lower end may be securely joined to the upper end using the wrap fasteners.

In accordance with these and other objects, which will become apparent hereinafter, the instant invention will now be described with particular reference to the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The foregoing objects, features and advantages of the invention will become more fully understood from the following description of the preferred embodiment of the invention as illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which like reference characters refer to the same parts throughout different views. The drawings are not necessarily to scale, emphasis instead being placed upon illustrating the principles of the invention.

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the preferred embodiment of the bath towel device and method for infants/children in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the preferred embodiment of the bath towel as worn by an adult user before placement of an infant thereon in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 3 is a perspective view of the preferred embodiment of the towel as worn by an adult user with an infant secured within the towel in accordance with the present invention.

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FIG. 4 is a partial perspective view of an alternative embodiment of the neck strap.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

With reference to the drawings, FIGS. 1-4 depict the preferred and alternative embodiments of the towel device of the instant invention which is generally characterized by the referenced numeral 10. Referring to FIG. 1, instant invention 10 comprises a substantially rectangular, water absorbent bath towel 12 and a flexible neck strap 14 attached thereto. Although the towel 10 is shown and described as rectangular, it may also be substantially oval or triangular or it may have rounded corners. The bath towel 10 is constructed with a shorter upper edge 16 (upper in this description referring to the area of the towel closest to the neck strap 14 or neck of the wearer), shorter bottom edge 18, and two longer lateral side edges 20. The preferred material of construction comprises material that is sufficiently soft, water absorbent, durable, and attractive, including soft cotton pile, terry cloth, hemp and the like. The neck strap 14 preferably comprises a soft, flexible, resilient material, such as woven textiles, soft rubber or plastic, and the like. A first, elongate fastener 22 is attached proximate to the top edge 16 and in parallel relation thereto, and a second elongate fastener 24 is attached proximate to the bottom top edge 18 in parallel. Both fasteners 22, 24 are secured onto a first side 26 of the towel. Said fasteners 22, 24 are of the quick release and attachment type, such as hook and loop, known by the trade name VELCRO®, or snaps, clips, zippers, and like. The neck strap 14 is secured at opposing ends 28, 30 to the towel 12 by various means and fastening devices, such as stitching, rivets, buttons, and the like.

The neck strap 14 may also comprise two straps 14a, 14b each having a fixed end attached to the towel 10 and a free end that fasten together, as shown in FIG. 4. Fasteners 42 are attached to the free end of the straps for joining once the towel has been positioned on the person's body. The fasteners 42 may comprise hook-and-loop (such as VELCRO®), snaps, clips, zippers, tie-straps and like. In another alternative embodiment, the towel 10 may comprise a heating element 44, which may be battery powered, as shown in FIG. 4. In another alternative embodiment, the neck strap 14 may have one fixed end, such as at 28 or 30, and an opposite free end having a fastener, such as one of those disclosed herein, that releasably attaches to a corresponding fastener, such as 28a or 30a, on the towel 10 that is affixed to the towel a predetermined distance from the fixed end.

Referring to FIG. 2, the bath towel 10 is mounted to or worn by an adult user 32 placing the strap 14 around the adult's neck. The neck strap 14 is placed over and down past the head of the adult or secured behind the adult's neck and rests substantially upon and around the shoulders and neck of the adult user 32. The body of the towel 10 has a length and width that substantially covers an adult's torso and which may also cover the lap area. Accordingly, the towel 10 should have a length of approximately two to five feet and width of two to three feet. When worn, the body of the towel 10 depends downward from the attached ends 28, 30 of the neck strap 14 and covers at least the torso and preferably a substantial portion of the torso and lap area of the adult 32. In this configuration and position of the towel 10, the adult 32 can wash an infant within a bath receptacle in an unobstructed manner and without getting wet. In FIG. 3, the adult user 32 is shown holding an infant 34 in the towel 10. As illustrated, the infant 34 is removed from a bath recep-

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tacle (not shown) and placed substantially against the first side 26 of the towel 10 at which time the bottom 18 edge of the towel 12 is pulled toward the top edge 16. As a result, the towel substantially encloses and dries the infant 34. The arms of the adult user 32 can be positioned in a manner that swaddles the infant 34 under normal circumstances with a reduced risk of the infant slipping and falling. Once the infant is adequately wrapped and enclosed by the towel 12, the top 16 and bottom 18 edges are pressed together in substantial parallel relation so that the fasteners 22, 24 are releasably engaged in order to retain the towel 12 in a folded configuration around the infant 34. Once the infant 34 is secured, the second side 36 of the towel 12 is substantially exposed to view. While drying is occurring, the adult 32 can support the infant 34 with arms extended as illustrated and then place the infant 34 onto a surface at which time the fasteners 22, 24 are disengaged, and the infant 34 can be separated from the towel 12 portion. Referring to FIG. 3, the second side 36 may include pouches 42 for holding items, such as cotton swabs and/or creams, so the adult can readily access such desired items.

While this version of the invention has been illustrated and described in detail in the drawings and foregoing description, the same is to be considered as illustrative and not restrictive in character. With respect to the above description, it is to be realized that the optimum dimensional relationships for the parts of the invention may include variations in size, materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation, assembly and use.

The instant invention has been shown and described herein in what is considered to be the most practical and preferred embodiment. It is recognized, however, that departures may be made therefrom within the scope of the invention and that obvious structural and/or functional modifications will occur to a person skilled in the art.

What is claimed is:

1. A bath towel for infants and young children adapted for wearing by an adult care giver while giving and removing an infant from a bath, said towel comprising:

a flexible, fabric-based material capable of absorbing water;

an upper end and lower end defined by said material, said material comprising a first surface between said upper and lower ends;

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a body defined by said material between said upper and lower ends; and

a strap having at least one end affixed to said material and means for mounting around the adult's neck;

a first fastener attached to said first surface below and proximal to said upper end;

a second corresponding fastener attached to said first surface below said first fastener and above said lower end;

at least one pocket attached to a second surface for storing items; and

means for heating said material, said heating means be disposed in said material.

2. A towel as recited in claim 1, wherein said strap is affixed to said upper end.

3. A towel as recited in claim 1, wherein said strap is affixed proximal to said upper end.

4. A towel as recited in claim 1, wherein said strap comprises:

a first strap having a fixed end attached at least proximal to said upper end and a free end having a first fastener; and

a second strap having a fixed end attached to said material a predetermined distance from said first strap and a free end having a corresponding fastener that mates with said first fastener; said first fastener and said corresponding fastener cooperating for attachment behind the adult's neck to secure said material to the adult.

5. A towel as recited in claim 4, wherein said first and corresponding fasteners comprise hook-and-loop.

6. A towel as recited in claim 1, wherein said strap comprises:

two fixed ends attached to said material at least near said upper end and defining an opening that receives the adult's head and neck.

7. A towel as recited in claim 6, wherein said strap comprises a flexible and stretchable material for creating said opening.

8. A towel as recited in claim 1, wherein said first and second fasteners comprise hook-and-loop.

* * * * *



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Frye

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(45) **Date of Patent:** **Jan. 1, 2002**

(54) **ADJUSTABLE DISPOSABLE GARMENT PROTECTOR**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

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(51) Int. Cl.⁷ **A41B 13/10**

(52) U.S. Cl. **2/49.2**

(58) Field of Search **2/49.2, 48, 49.1,**
2/49.3, 49.4, 49.5, 50, 51, 52

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Assistant Examiner—Alissa L. Hoey

(57) **ABSTRACT**

According to the present invention, an adjustable disposable garment protector is provided and includes a protector support adapted to support the garment protector from the neck of a user; a protector cover supported at its first end by the protector support in a position covering a front portion of the chest and stomach of the user; and, a pouch positioned on the second end of the protector cover, the pouch being formed to fold to one of a first closed position for storage and a second opened position having its top end opened and positioned to collect particulates and liquids moving downwardly along the front surface of the garment protector. The disposable garment protector may also be fabricated as a convertible food bag.

4 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets

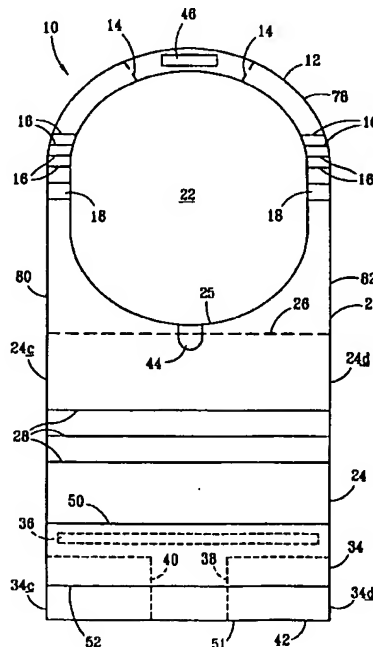


FIG. 1

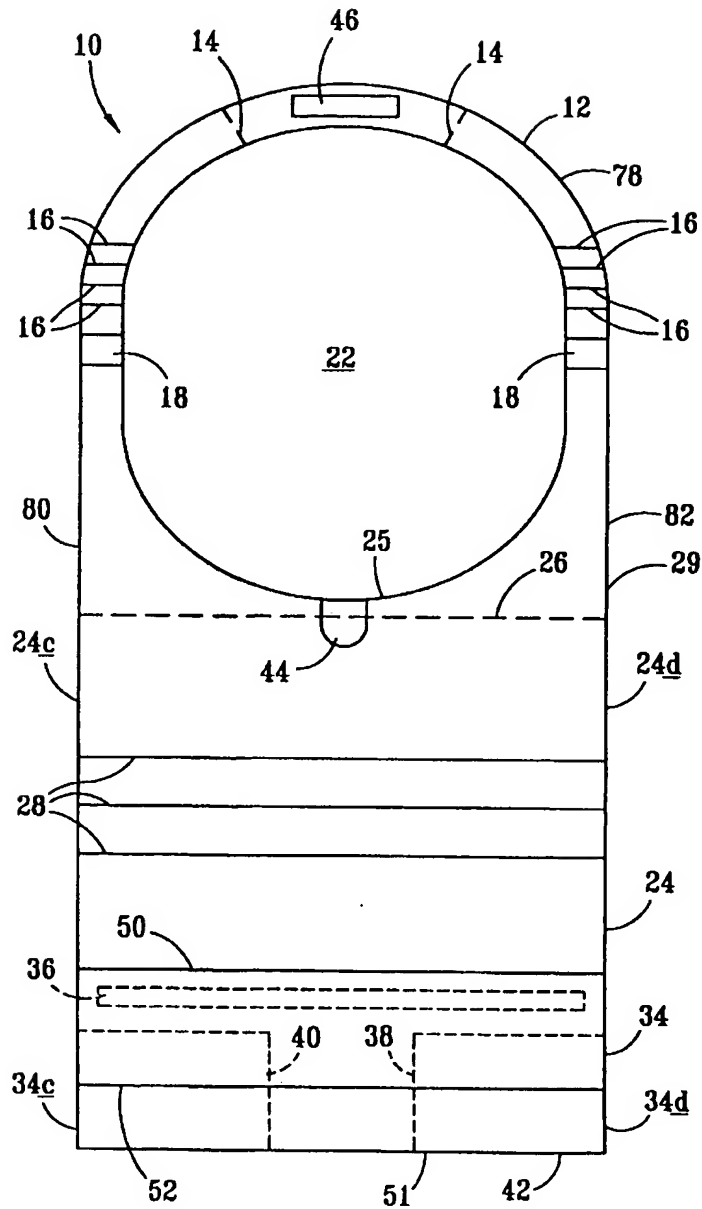


FIG. 2

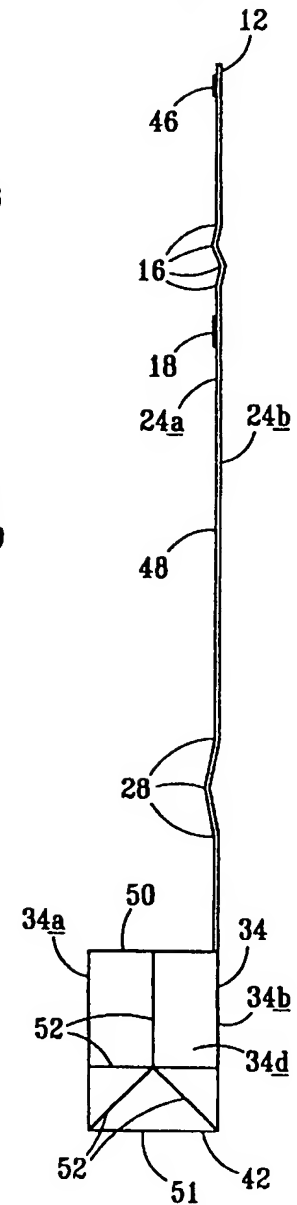


FIG. 3

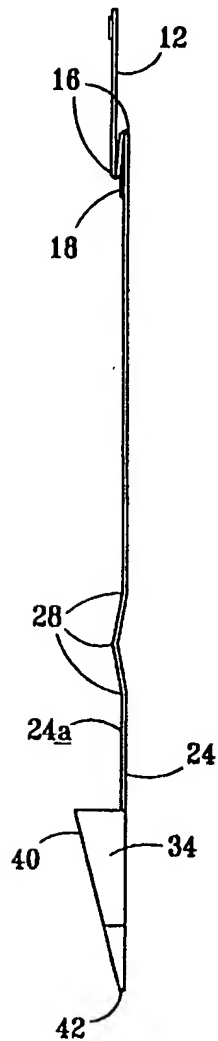


FIG. 6

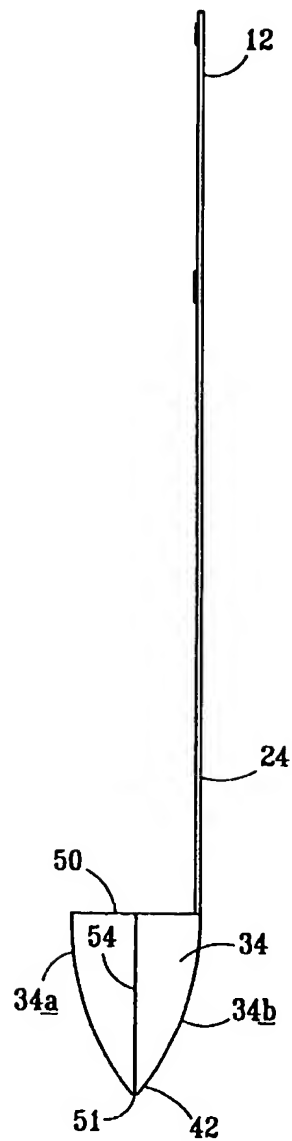


FIG. 7

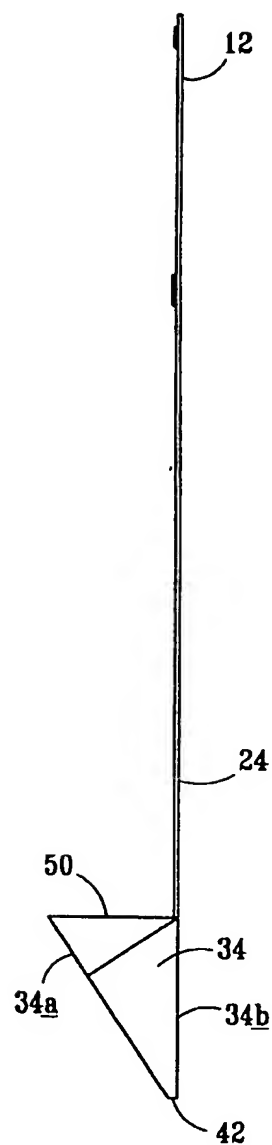


FIG. 4

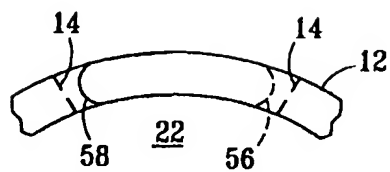
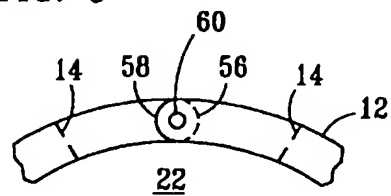


FIG. 5



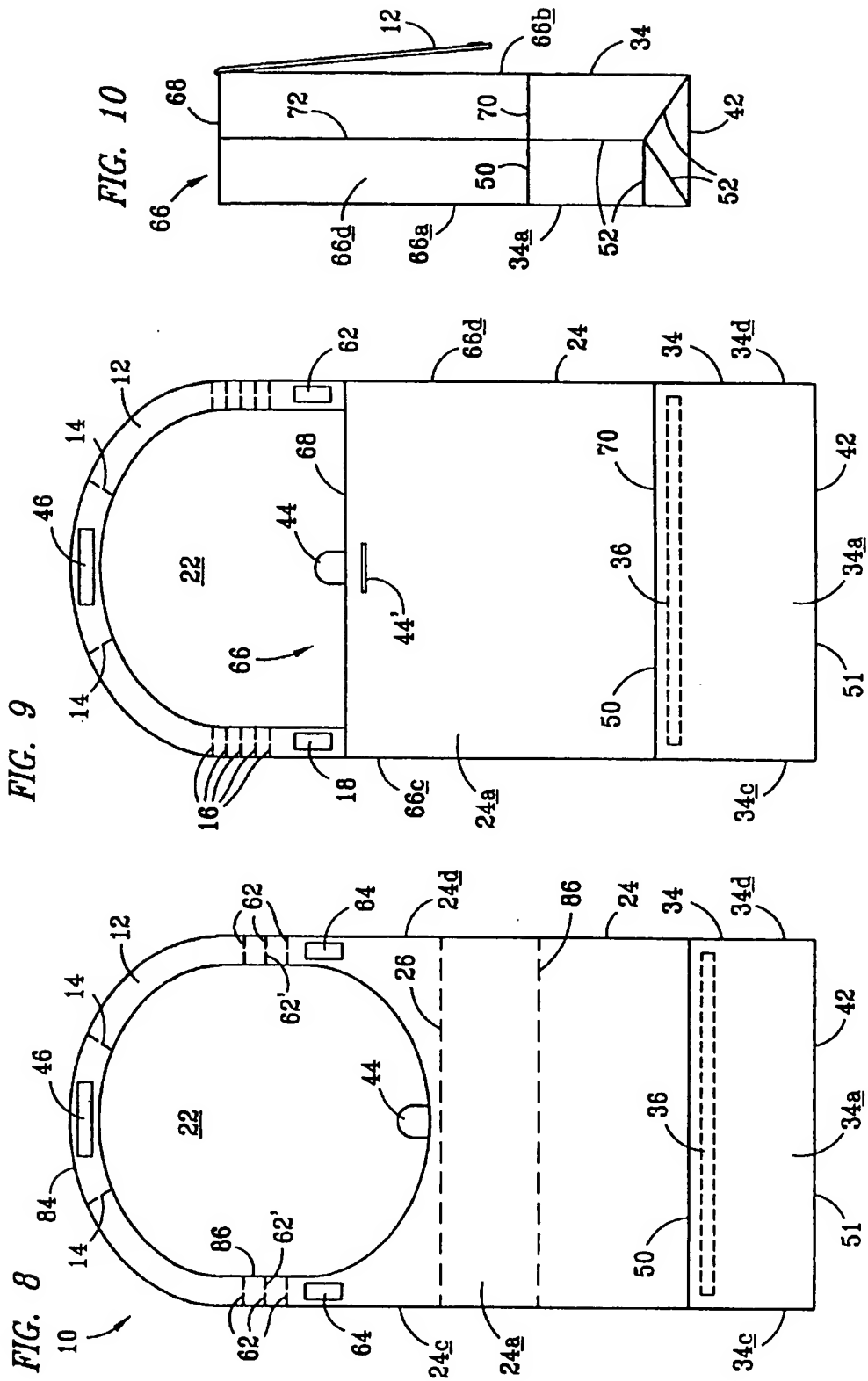
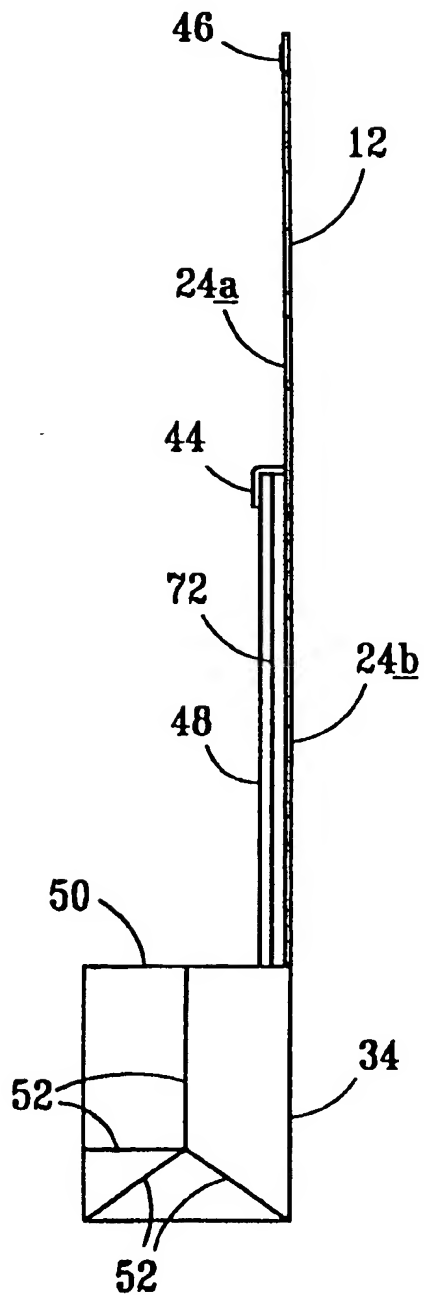
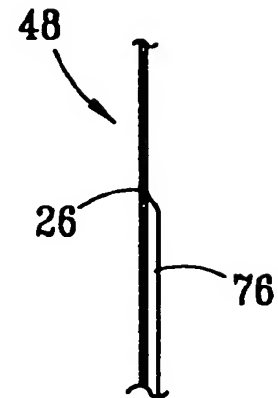


FIG. 11*FIG. 12*

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ADJUSTABLE DISPOSABLE GARMENT PROTECTOR

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to an adjustable, disposable garment protector useful to protect the garments of a user from spills, dropped food and the like during the consumption of food and beverages, particularly fast food beverages. The invention also relates to a convertible food bag and a method for packaging the disposable garment protector and a method for disposing of the disposable garment protector and its contents after use.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Garment protectors have been used to protect the front of infants during feeding or dining and diners eating particularly messy foods such as lobsters and the like for many years. However, most such garment protectors simply consist of a cloth-like garment protector supported at the back of the neck of a user and do nothing to catch liquids or foods which may be spilled on the garment protector and pass downwardly over the surface of the garment protector and onto the garments of the user.

Such garment protectors do not serve the needs of modern consumers who frequently purchase food at fast food drive-ins or drive-throughs for consumption in an automotive vehicle while moving on crowded roadways and the like. Garment protectors for such use should not only be easily disposable but they should also provide a means for containing any waste materials spilled and provide for a method of disposing of both any spilled food particles, liquids and the like as well as the garment protector itself after the user has finished dining.

Accordingly, a continuing search has been directed to the development of a disposable garment protector which protects the garments of a user while dining in automobiles, school cafeterias, offices, picnicking, or like activities and provides for the disposal of any spilled or dropped food particles, liquids or packaging and for the disposal of the garment protector itself.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to the present invention, an adjustable disposable garment protector is provided and comprises a protector support adapted to support the garment protector from the neck of a user; a protector cover having a front surface and a back surface, a first side and a second side, a first and a second end and supported at its first end by the protector support in a position covering a front portion of the chest and stomach of the user; and, a pouch positioned on the second end of the protector cover, the pouch having a top end and a bottom end, a front and a back and being formed to fold to one of a first closed position for storage and a second opened position having its top end opened and positioned to collect particulates and liquids moving downwardly along the front surface of the garment protector in use.

The garment protector may also be fabricated as a convertible food bag which is convertible into an adjustable disposable garment protector, the convertible food bag comprising a food bag having a front and a back, a first side and a second side, a top and a bottom, a disposable garment protector support adapted to support the disposable garment protector from the neck of a user, a pouch formed by a lower portion of the bag and having a top and a bottom end, a front and a back and being formed to fold to one of a closed

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position for storage and a second opened position having its top end open and a tearable perforation or a cut across the front, first side and second side of the bag so that the bag above the top of the pouch is foldable to a closed position to form a protector cover having a front surface and a back surface, a first side and a second side, a first and a second end and supported at its first end by the protector support in a position covering a front portion of the chest and stomach of the user.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The FIG. 1 is a front view of an adjustable, disposable garment protector according to the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a side view of the embodiment of the present invention shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a side view of the embodiment of the present invention shown in FIG. 1 with the protector support in a shortened position, with the pouch in a closed position;

FIG. 4 is an alternate embodiment of the protector support shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 5 is a further variation of the protector support shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 6 is a side view of an alternate embodiment of the embodiment of the invention shown in FIG. 1 with a different type of pouch;

FIG. 7 is a side view of the embodiment of the invention shown in FIG. 1 wherein a further alternate type pouch is shown;

FIG. 8 is a front view of an alternate embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 9 is a front view of an alternate embodiment of the present invention wherein the adjustable, disposable garment protector is fabricated as a food bag;

FIG. 10 is a side view of the embodiment of the invention shown in FIG. 9 with the protector support collapsed to a position beside the back of the food bag;

FIG. 11 shows the convertible food bag shown in FIG. 10 as configured for use as an adjustable, disposable garment protector; and,

FIG. 12 shows a cross-section of the front of a protector cover and the positioning of an impermeable layer on the back of the front portion of the protector cover in a lower portion of the protector cover.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

In the description of the Figures the same numbers will be used throughout to refer to the same or similar components.

In FIG. 1 an adjustable, disposable garment protector 10 is shown. Garment protector 10 comprises a support 12 adapted to support garment protector 10 in position about the neck of a user. Support 12 includes at least one perforation 14 (two are shown) which are included to permit rapid removal of support 12 in the event of an emergency. Perforations 14 are positioned near the upper part of support 12 which would be near the back of the user. Perforations 14 could also be placed at any place along the length of support 12. Support 12 as shown in FIG. 1 also includes a plurality of creases 16 which may be bent at a first crease and doubled back at another crease and stuck to adhesive patches 18 to shorten support 12. At least one adhesive patch 18 is positioned as shown in FIG. 1 and more clearly shown in FIG. 2 to facilitate shortening support 12 in this fashion. Support 12 defines an opening 22 in its center which is the

space occupied by the neck of the user as the disposable garment protector is positioned for use. This center section may comprise a napkin material which is readily removed by breaking perforations surrounding center 22 or it may comprise a sheet containing games for the amusement of children or adults and the like. The center napkin or the like is perforated for removal without tearing perforations 14. The center 22, as well as other surfaces of the disposable garment protector, may be used for advertising, decorative materials or the like. In fact it is contemplated that most of the exposed surfaces of the disposable garment protector 10 will be used for advertising or decorative materials.

A protector cover 24 is supported by support 12 and is configured to cover a front portion of the chest and stomach of the user. The protector cover section desirably comprises an absorbent towel or napkin-like soft, absorbent material 48 on its front surface. As shown in FIGS. 1 and 12, a water-impervious layer 76 is desirably positioned on a portion of a back 246 of disposable garment protector 10. Typically the impervious layer extends behind the lower portion of garment protector 10 for example below a dotted line 26 in FIG. 1. Protector cover 24 extends downwardly to its bottom 42 which is shown in FIG. 1 to be the same as a bottom 51 of a pouch 34. Pouch 34 has a front 34a, a back 34b, a first side 34c and a second side 34d and is positioned generally at the bottom of protector cover 24.

A plurality of creases 28 may be positioned in protector cover 24 in a folded position so that protector cover 24 can be pulled downwardly to unfold creases 28 to lengthen protector cover 24. A pouch 34, which is generally a fold-out pouch, is shown to fold out in a fashion similar to the bottom of a paper bag. As shown more fully in FIG. 2, a plurality of folds 52 are positioned at sides 34c and 34d of pouch 34 so that pouch 34 may be folded to a closed position as shown in FIG. 3 with its bottom positioned near a front surface 24a of protector cover 24.

By reference to FIG. 1, fold-out inner pouches 38 and 40 are shown by dotted lines. These pouches may be positioned to be folded out by the user inside pouch 34 or designed as an integral part of pouch 34 to fold out as desired by the user to hold barbeque sauce, catsup, salad dressing, or the like. The use of the inner pouches is optional but may be desirable in many instances. Further, a plurality of fold-out inner pouches may be used.

In FIG. 2, a side view of the embodiment shown in FIG. 1 is shown. Adhesive strip 20 is shown in combination with creases 16 to shorten protector cover 34 with creases 28 shown in a closed (initial) position. Pouch 34 is shown in its open position.

In FIG. 3, pouch 34 is shown in a closed position and folded against front 24a of protector cover 24. Creases 28 are in their open position to lengthen protector cover 24.

In FIG. 6, an alternate configuration of pouch 34 is shown. This pouch folds differently but includes a fold 54 and collapses against protector cover 24 for storage.

FIG. 7 shows a further embodiment of pouch 34 which also collapses against the front of protector cover 24 for storage.

In FIG. 4, an alternate embodiment of support 12 is shown. The embodiment shown in FIG. 1 is basically a slipover design where support 12 constitutes a single strap which may be adjusted by creases and adhesives. In FIG. 4 two straps are shown. The straps are joined to a first side 24c and a second side 24d of a first end 25 (top) of protector cover 24 and are overlapped with an end 56 of a first strap and an end 58 of a second strap. The straps can be joined by

VELCRO, adhesives or as shown in FIG. 5 by a snap 60 or the like. In both FIGS. 4 and 5 perforations 14 are shown. A variety of fasteners can be used such as VELCRO, adhesives, snaps, buttons, tying, the use of a continuous strap with a slipover fit and the like. Such variations are well known to those skilled in the art.

In the embodiment of the invention shown in FIG. 8, a plurality of perforations 62 are shown in each side of a strap 12. A single perforation could be used, and two straps could be used but for convenience a plurality of perforations is shown in a slip-over strap. In this embodiment, strap 12 may be shortened by tearing one of the perforations on each side and moving the end (strap tear end) of the strap removed at the perforation to engage an adhesive shown at 64. By selection of the desired perforation, strap 12 can be shortened to any desired length.

In other respects, the embodiment shown in FIG. 8 is similar to the embodiment shown in FIG. 1.

In the embodiment shown in FIG. 9, a food bag convertible to become a disposable garment protector is shown. The food bag 66 has a top 68 and a front 66a, a back 66b and first and second sides 66c and 66d respectively. A support 12 as discussed in conjunction with FIG. 8 is positioned to extend above back 66b of food bag 66. As shown in FIG. 9, during use of the bag, support 12 is bent downwardly along the back 66b of food bag 66. In this configuration the bag is readily used to serve food and the like. Bag 66 includes a pouch 34 as described in conjunction with FIG. 1. Further bag 66 includes a cut 70 or a perforation which is easily tearable along front 66a and sides 66c and 66d of food bag 66, but strong enough to permit use of the bag as a container. This permits the bag sections above top 50 of pouch 34 to be separated and folded back against front 24a of protector cover 24. A clip or tab 44 made of a suitable deformable material such as treated paper or the like is positioned on the top of back 66b of bag 66 and is used as shown in FIG. 11 for deformation to hold the collapsed upper sections of bag 66 in a collapsed position against front 24a of protector cover 24. Tab 44 may be of the same material as bag 66 and may be insertable into a slot 44' inside 66A of bag 66 for mating engagement with tab 44, to hold the collapsed upper sections of bag 66 in a collapsed position. In this configuration, the bag is readily used as a disposable garment protector. The bag may also be fabricated from a clear plastic or the like so that the contents of the bag can be seen by the purchaser. Bags of this type are also suitable for conversion to a garment protector as discussed above.

In FIG. 12 a cross-section of the back 24b of protector cover 24 is shown. A front layer 48 comprises a soft, absorbent material such as a towel or napkin-like material which has suitable strength to form support 12. A backing 76 is positioned by bonding it to the back of the front layer 48. This configuration permits the bag to be fabricated economically by placing the water repellant material only on the lower portion of the disposable garment protector where it is needed rather than behind the front of the entire disposable garment protector. Of course, no such backing is required when a plastic bag is used. Such fabrication techniques are well known to those skilled in the art.

Various adhesives have been referred to in the discussion of the present invention. These adhesives are adhesive strips which are preferably covered with a peelable or otherwise readily removable covering so that the adhesive is not activated until it is desired by the user to do so. Such adhesives are readily available and form no part of the present invention except as they may function in conjunction with other components of the collapsible garment protector.

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In FIGS. 1, 8 and 9, an adhesive strip 46 is shown near the top of support 12. This strip is used to retain the disposable garment protector in a rolled-up position when the user has finished with it. When the user has finished his meal, an adhesive strip 36 is used to close pouch 34. The pouch then contains any spilled or discarded materials or the like which have been placed in pouch 34. Pouch 34 can also be used for the disposal of napkins, empty packages and the like consistent with the size of pouch 34. After pouch 34 has been closed, the garment protector may be rolled into a tight roll and retained in the tight roll by use of adhesive strip 46. This permits the economical use of space in a vehicle with the waste materials from the meal contained in the disposable garment protector. Similarly tab 44 shown in FIG. 8 may be formed as an adhesive tab and used in a similar fashion or an adhesive tab may be used in lieu of tab 44.

By the use of the present invention, a user may safely purchase and consume fast food products while occupying a vehicle or the like without risk of soiling the users' garments. After the disposable garment protector has been used, it can then be utilized to store spills and other refuse from the consumed meal in a fashion consistent with the maintenance of neatness in the vehicle and the like until an opportunity to dispose of the disposable garment protector is available.

The disposable garment protectors may be stored in flat containers from which they are removed sequentially by use of a tab 44 as shown in FIG. 1. The tab in FIG. 1 is adapted to be grasped by a user of the disposable garment protector, or a third party dispersing the disposal garment protector to a user, for the removal of a disposable garment protector from a storage box, drawer or the like in which the disposable garment protectors are positioned as flat stackable disposable garment protectors. Alternatively, the disposable garment protector may be folded at lines such as line 86 and at perforations 62' in FIG. 8 if folded with pouch 34 facing downwardly along line 86 with support 12 being folded upwardly and over the remaining portions of disposable garment protector 10 at perforation 62'. The disposable garment protectors may be placed in a smaller container and again may be removed by grasping tab 44 which may comprise a covered adhesive tab. This permits the storage of disposable garment protectors in a smaller container which may be somewhat taller but occupies a smaller horizontal space than when the disposable garment protectors are stacked in the flattened form. Many variations in the packaging of disposable products, such as the adjustable disposable garment protectors, are possible and well-known to those skilled in the art.

Having thus described the present invention by reference to certain of its preferred embodiments, it is pointed out that many variations and modifications are possible within the scope of the present invention.

I claim:

1. A disposable garment protector comprising:

- a) a protector cover having a front surface and a back surface, a first side and a second side, a first and a second end and supported at its first end by a protector support in a position covering a front portion of the chest and stomach of the user; and,
- b) a protector support adapted to support the garment protector from the neck of a user wherein the protector support comprises a strap having a first end and a second end and is positioned to extend from the first end of the strap joined to the first side of the first end of the protector cover around the back of the neck of the user to the second end of the strip joined to the second

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side of the protector cover and wherein the strap includes at least one tearable perforation which when torn permits a quick removal of the protector from the use of the user;

- c) a pouch positioned on the second end of the protector cover, the pouch having a top end and a bottom end, a front and a back and being formed to fold to one of a first closed position for storage and a second opened position having its top end opened and positioned to collect particulates and liquids moving downwardly along the front surface of the protector cover.

2. A disposable garment protector comprising:

- a) a protector cover having a front surface and a back surface, a first side and a second side, a first and a second end and supported at its first end by a protector support in a position covering a front portion of the chest and stomach of the user; and,

- b) a protector support adapted to support the garment protector from the neck of a user wherein the protector support comprises a strap having a first end and a second end and is positioned to extend from the first end of the strap joined to the first side of the first end of the protector cover around the back of the neck of the user to the second end of the strip joined to the second side of the protector cover and wherein the strap includes at least one tearable perforation and at least one adhesive section positioned on the strap so that when the tearable perforation is torn, a first strap tear end including the adhesive section and a second strap tear end are produced so that the second strap tear end is joinable to the adhesive section on the first strap tear end to change the length of the strap;

- c) a pouch positioned on the second end of the protector cover, the pouch having a top end and a bottom end, a front and a back and being formed to fold to one of a first closed position for storage and a second opened position having its top end opened and positioned to collect particulates and liquids moving downwardly along the front surface of the protector cover.

3. A disposable garment protector comprising:

- a) a protector cover having a front surface and a back surface, a first side and a second side, a first and a second end and supported at its first end by a protector support in a position covering a front portion of the chest and stomach of the user; and,

- b) the neck of a user wherein the protector support comprises two strap sections, a first strap section having its first end joined to the first side of the first end of the protector cover and is a second end and a second strap section having a first end and having its first end joined to the second side of the first end of the protector cover with a second end portion of the first strap section and a first end portion of the second strap section being joinable to form the strap and wherein the strap includes at least one tearable perforation which when torn permits removal of the protector from the neck of the user;

- c) a pouch positioned on the second end of the protector cover, the pouch having a top end and a bottom end, a front and a back and being formed to fold to one of a first closed position for storage and a second opened position having its top end opened and positioned to collect particulates and liquids moving downwardly along the front surface of the protector cover.

4. A disposable garment protector comprising:

- a) a protector cover having a front surface and a back surface, a first side and a second side, a first and a

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second end and supported at its first end by a protector support in a position covering a front portion of the chest and stomach of the user; and,

- b) a protector support adapted to support the garment protector from the neck of a user wherein the protector support comprises two strap sections, a first strap section having its first end joined to the first side of the first end of the protector cover and a second end and a second strap section having a first end and having its first end joined to the second side of the first end of the protector cover with a second end portion of the first strap section and a first end portion of the second strap section being joinable to form the strap and wherein each strap section includes at least one tearable perforation and an adhesive section positioned on the strap

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section so that when the tearable perforation is torn, a first strap section tear end including the adhesive section and a second strap section tear end are produced so that the second strap section tear end is joinable to the adhesive section on the first strap section tear end to change the length of the strap section;

- c) a pouch positioned on the second end of the protector cover, the pouch having a top end and a bottom end, a front and a back and being formed to fold to one of a first closed position for storage and a second opened position having its top end opened and positioned to collect particulates and liquids moving downwardly along the front surface of the protector cover.

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